

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8526

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS OUAGADOUGOU 1959

AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH CILSS COUNSELOR KONATE

1. AF/EPS AID LIAISON OFFICER SEGAL AND EMBOFFS CALLED ON CILSS REGIONAL COUNSELOR IBRAHIMA KONATE FOR BRIEFING ON CILSS ACTIVITIES. HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVERSATION FOLLOW.

2. SAHELIAN TRANSPORT -- WORLD BANK MISSION WAS ARRIVING SHORTLY TO BEGIN WORK ON SAHEL TRANSPORT POLICY PAPER AS FOLLOW-UP TO DAKAR AND COTONOU MEETINGS. BANK, UNDP, AND CILSS WILL WORK TOGETHER IN PREPARING FINAL DOCUMENT. CILSS WILL BE REPRESENTED BY NEWLY ASSIGNED CANADIAN TRANSPORT EXPERT WHO IS WORKING UNDER KONATE. FORMAL MEETING OF DONORS WILL BE HELD AT LATER DATE TO DISCUSS REPORT.

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3. MULTI-DONOR FOOD MISSION -- KONATE SAID MISSION WOULD CONSIST OF TWO STAGES: FIRST STAGE WOULD BE VISITS BY SMALL TEAMS TO EACH OF THE COUNTRIES TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOWED BY LARGER FAO-LED GROUP WHICH WOULD DO ACTUAL SURVEY ON HARVEST AND STOCKS. LATTER WOULD BE STARTING IN NOVEMBER.

4. CILSS MINISTERIAL MEETING -- MINISTERS FROM SEVEN MEMBERS STATES WILL BE MEETING IN BANJUL SOMETIME IN OCTOBER. ACTUAL DATE DEPENDS ON WMO'S FINAL REPORT ON CREATION OF NATIONAL WEATHER CENTERS AND REGIONAL METEOROLOGICAL CENTER. KONATE EXPLAINED STATES WISH TO PLACE WMO'S REPORT ON AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION.

5. RELATIONS WITH SSO -- DAKOURE HAS NOT YET HAD SESSION WITH NEWLY ARRIVED UN/SSO DIRECTOR GALAL MAGDI TO SET UP LINES OF COORDINATION HENCE KONATE WAS NOT ABLE TO RESPOND TO OUR QUESTION. FYI LATER IN MORNING MAGDI PAID CALL AT EMBASSY. IN ANSWER TO SAME QUESTION, MAGDI SAID THAT SSO WOULD BE SEPARATE PHYSICAL OPERATION SINCE MORSE HAD REFUSED EARLIER OFFER BY CILSS TO MERGE TWO OFFICES. MAGDI SAID HIS OPERATION WOULD BE ON LEAN SIDE -- FOUR OR FIVE PEOPLE AT MOST -- AND WOULD SERVE AS CATALYST FOR FINDING DONOR FINANCING. END FYI.

6. CILSS OFFICE -- KONATE SAID CILSS WOULD SOON BE MOVING TO PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS IN NEW BUILDING. TWO UNDP RURAL DEVELOPMENT TECHNICIANS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO CILSS AND WEST GERMANS HAVE FINANCED ON HYDROLOGIST TO WORK WITH CILSS.

7. SAHEL INSTITUTE -- UNDP IS SENDING OUT MISSION TO STUDY AND ESTABLISH SAHEL INSTITUTE WHICH WILL BE DESIGNED TO FUNCTION AS REGIONAL RESEARCH CENTER FOR SAHELIAN COUNTRIES.

8. OTHER MEETINGS -- KONATE MENTIONED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF LABOR UNIONS FROM SEVEN SAHEL COUNTRIES WOULD BE MEETING OCTOBER IN OUAGA TO DISCUSS DROUGHT. ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

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SAID NGO CONFERENCE WOULD BE HELD IN NOVEMBER AT ROME. GRAHAM

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